

LING 202 - FALL 2005 - EXAM AND GRADE INFORMATION

- **FINAL EXAM:** Saturday December 17, 2005 3:30 - 5:30 pm BSP 131
- **FINAL EXAM GRADES AND FINAL GRADES** will be posted by 8:00 pm on Sunday December 18, 2005 at: www.sp.uconn.edu/~sih01001/grades202fall2005.htm
- **DEADLINE FOR CORRECTING ANY GRADE MISTAKES:** Monday December 19, 2005 by 8: 00 pm

GRADING RULES:

- homeworks accumulate a maximum of 200 points
- hw points are scaled down by a factor of 10 → max 20
- exams accumulate a maximum of 80 points
- bonus class points go to the homework points
- unused homework points go to exam points after being scaled down by a factor of 2

GRADING SCALE:

91-100 A
89-90 A-
81-88 B
79-80 B-
71-78 C
69-70 C-
61-68 D
59-60 D-
58 and lower F

LING 202 - FALL 2005 - FINAL EXAM INFO

The final exam will cover chapters 6, 7, 11 and 14 minus the following sections:

- **Chapter 6 (Semantics):** section 2.4 Evidentiality in Hidatsa
- **Chapter 7 (Historical linguistics):** section 2.1 Weakening and deletion, Consonantal strengthening, section 2.4 Phonetic versus Phonological change, section 6.2 from Reconstruction and the catalog of sound changes
- **Chapter 11 (First language acquisition):** section 4.2 A developmental sequence, section 5.5 The interpretation of sentence structure
- **Chapter 14 (Brain and language):** section 2 Investigating the brain, section 5 Linguistic theory and aphasia (**recommended reading nevertheless**)

HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS - PART 2 - December 6, 2005

Principles of Linguistics - Fall 2005; Simona Herdan

1 Lexical and semantic change

Lexical and semantic change

Addition of lexical items

Example 1. Word formation - compounding and derivation were available in OE - conversion is a newer process (not available in synthetic languages)

Example 2. Borrowing

- *substratum influence* = effect of a politically or culturally non-dominant language
- *superstratum influence* = effect of a politically or culturally dominant language
- Norman French: superstratum influence on English - tax, prayer, judge, verdict, medicine, art, army, navy, soldier

- *adstratum influence* = refers to 2 languages in contact, neither one of which is clearly politically or culturally dominant
- *French influence on Montreal English*: subvention vs subsidy
- *Scandinavian influence on English*: anger, call, cake, egg, fellow, gear, husband, low, score, seat, take

Example 3. Lexical borrowings into English:

- Italian: motto, artichoke, balcony, casino, mafia, malaria
- Spanish: comrade, tornado, cannibal, mosquito, banana
- German: poodle, kindergarten, seminar, noodle, pretzel
- Dutch: cole slaw, smuggle, gin, cookie, boom
- Slavic languages: czar, tundra, polka, intelligentsia, robot
- Native American languages: toboggan, opossum, wigwam, chipmunk, Massachusetts
- Hindi: thug, punch, shampoo, chintz

Example 4. Origin of the 5,000 most frequent words in English

Degree of frequency	Source language (%)			
	English	French	Latin	Other
First 1,000	83	11	2	4
Second 1,000	34	46	11	9
Third 1,000	29	46	14	11
Fourth 1,000	27	45	17	11
Fifth 1,000	27	47	17	9

Loss of lexical items: - through changes in society; object or notion the word refers to becomes obsolete

2 Language reconstruction

Comparative reconstruction

- systematic comparison of languages can establish if two or more languages are genetically related, i.e. share a common parent
- *comparative method*: the procedure of reconstructing earlier forms on the basis of later forms

Cognates = words descended from a common source

Signs of family relationships:

- systematic phonetic correspondence in the vocabulary items of different languages

English	Dutch	German	Danish	Swedish
man	man	Mann	mand	man
hand	hand	Hand	hånd	hand
foot	voet	Fuss	fod	fot
bring	brenge	bringen	bringe	bringa
summer	zomer	Sommer	sommer	sommar

Example 5.

- distantly related languages have less striking correspondences

Techniques of reconstruction

- *protolanguage*: the reconstructed common source of 2 or more languages
- *protoform*: reconstructed vocabulary items; written with a preceding *

Reconstruction strategies

- *phonetic plausibility strategy*: any changes from protoforms to later forms must be phonetically plausible
- *majority rules strategy*: **only if** no phonetically plausible change can be found, the segment found in the majority of the cognates is assumed to be part of the protoform

The discovery of Indo-European

- *Groundwork*: discovery that Sanskrit (ancient Indian language) is related to Latin, Greek, Germanic, and Celtic
- 1822 Jacob Grimm: explains the relationship between Indo-European cognates in terms of **sound shift**
- **sound shift** = systematic modification of a series of phonemes

Grimm's Law

Sound shifts underlying Grimm's Law:

Proto-Indo-European	p	t	k	b	d	g	b ^h	d ^h	g ^h
Germanic	f	θ	x	p	t	k	b	d	g

- voiceless stops become voiceless fricatives
- voiced stops become voiceless stops
- aspirated voiced stops become voiced stops (*Note that PIE had voiced aspirated stops!*)

Verner's Law - an apparent exception to Grimm's Law

- Grimm's Law sometimes appears to fail to cause the change from a voiceless stop to a voiceless fricative - a voiced fricative appears where a voiceless one should

Explanation

- a voiceless fricative resulting from Grimm's Law underwent voicing if the original Proto-Indo-European accent (á) did not immediately precede it

PIE	Sanskrit	Grimm's law	Verner's law	Gothic	
*t	bhráta	*t > θ	—	[bro:θar]	'brother'
*t	pitá	*t > θ	θ > ð	[faðar]	'father'

Apparent exceptions to Grimm's Law

Expected by Grimm's Law	Latin	English
p > f	ped-	pedestrian
t > θ	tenuis	tenuous
k > x	canalis	canal

- such English words were borrowed directly from Latin or French long after the sound shifts described by Grimm's law had taken place

Summary

- language change is inevitable and regular
- the study of language change reinforces the view that language is rule-governed
- even exceptions are sometimes rule-governed; see Verner's Law